

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 57**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Salinas  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Maze, Nakanishi, Pavley, and  
Vargas)**

April 26, 2005

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 57—Relative to automated external defibrillator programs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 57, as introduced, Salinas. Automated external defibrillator programs.

This measure would urge all California schools to set as a top priority the implementation of an automated external defibrillator program.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, On any given day, 20 percent of the population,  
2 both adults and children, occupy our nation's schools according  
3 to the National Athletic Trainers Association; and  
4 WHEREAS, Nationwide over 250,000 Americans die each  
5 year from sudden cardiac arrest; and  
6 WHEREAS, Eighty percent of sudden cardiac arrests are  
7 caused by ventricular fibrillation, a heart rhythm where  
8 defibrillation is the only effective treatment; and  
9 WHEREAS, For every minute that passes while a person is in  
10 ventricular fibrillation, chances of survival decrease by 10  
11 percent. After six minutes, according to studies conducted by the  
12 Mayo Clinic, the chance of resuscitating a sudden cardiac arrest  
13 victim is near zero; and

1 WHEREAS, The average national survival rate for  
2 out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrests is only 5 percent; and

3 WHEREAS, Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) make it  
4 possible for nonmedical rescuers to deliver potentially lifesaving  
5 defibrillation to victims of sudden cardiac arrest; and

6 WHEREAS, The national government has already mandated  
7 every commercial airplane to have an AED on board. A sudden  
8 cardiac arrest event is 30 times more likely to occur in a school  
9 than on an airplane; and

10 WHEREAS, In the United States, one out of every 100,000 to  
11 300,000 high school athletes will die each year from sudden  
12 cardiac arrest. A recent study conducted by the Centers for  
13 Disease and Control showed a total of 23,320 young adults died  
14 of sudden cardiac arrest between 1989 and 1996; and

15 WHEREAS, New York, Nevada, and Ohio require certain  
16 schools statewide to implement AED programs, and several  
17 states, including Illinois, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania,  
18 encourage or provide funding for school AED programs. In the  
19 state of New York, the lives of a growing number of schoolage  
20 children are being saved through the use of AEDs; and

21 WHEREAS, The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute  
22 recently published the findings of a renowned three year Public  
23 Access to Defibrillation study, which concluded that AEDs  
24 double a victim's chance of survival; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
26 *thereof concurring*, That, in order to save the lives of students,  
27 teachers, staff members, and visitors suffering from sudden  
28 cardiac arrest in our state's schools, the Legislature urges all  
29 California schools to set as a top priority the implementation of  
30 an automated external defibrillator program; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit  
32 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.